



‘Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’ . . . When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the le crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!’” Luke 19: 29-31+

It was just a borrowed donkey, but if it could talk it would have a wonderful story to tell to everyone.

We think that Mary was riding on a donkey when she went to Bethlehem with Joseph for the census. But we don’t know that for sure. It could have been a camel. It probably was not a horse because Joseph and Mary were poor and research tells us that only nobility and the very rich rode horses. Does it really matter?

We assume she was carried on an animal because it would have been a very long walk for her. Regardless of the kind of animal, it was given a great honor. Later on, another animal, we always assume it was a donkey, maybe the same one, carried Mary and Christ to Egypt when the angel appeared to Joseph and told him to flee.

While we are talking about Christ and animals, were there really animals at the manger with Christ. I think there were. A beautiful song “Friendly Beasts” is sung each year at Christmas. Could they talk to each other? There is so much we don’t know and the more we study, the less we really know. Do you ever wonder if the camels carrying the Magi wondered why they were being led by a star to a foreign country? Were they special camels. Was it a caravan and were there other animals along with the donkeys?

Animals in the life of Christ are many and Christ referred to animals many times. So many times we just assume animals are just animals, as we also sometimes assume other humans are just there and don’t show much care for each other as we were commanded.



“The Friendly Beasts”



Jesus our brother kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable
And the friendly beasts around him stood
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, all shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother up hill and down
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.
"I," said the donkey, all shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red
"I gave him my manger for his bed
I gave him my hay to pillow his head."
"I," said the cow, all white and red

"I," said the sheep, with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for a blanket warm
He wore my coat on Christmas morn."
"I," said the sheep, with curly horn.

"I," said the dove, from the rafters high
"I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry
We cooed him to sleep, my love and I
"I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

Thus every beast, by some good spell
In the stable rude
was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave
Emmanuel
The gift he gave
Emmanuel
The gift he gave
Emmanuel



Many animals care for us and many have saved the lives of humans, just as many humans care for animals who are lost and mistreated. The puppy that is abandoned on a highway is often picked up by a caring human being, nursed back to health and then put into the care of an individual or family who will love it and care for it.

When Christ had healed a man on the Sabbath, the Lawyers and Pharisees accused him of breaking the Sabbath, but he replied And he said to them, *“Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?”* Luke 14:5

We know from studying Scripture that Christ came to change the world, but it is hard for us to understand, so we should not be surprised that his disciples were somewhat confused as to what they should do after he was gone from them.

One incident of that which involved animals was with Peter. Peter knew the law and so he was confused when



a “vessel” descended and it was full of many different animals. A voice from Heaven told Peter to eat, but he declined because to him some of the animals were not “kosher” for him to eat. The command was repeated again and again, and then a voice said *“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”* Acts 10:15, and then the vessel was taken away. Did this mean that now Peter was allowed to eat any animal. What was the meaning.

Authorities have many different interpretations. Some think it refers to food and eating of animals, so that now Peter was free to eat any animal. Some think it had to do with spreading the Gospel outside of the Jews.

After this vision, some messengers arrived from a Centurion named Cornelius who wanted to talk with Peter. He wanted to know about God and had been fasting while waiting to hear from Peter. When Cornelius saw Peter coming he went to meet him. Peter told of his vision. As they talked, Peter realized that Cornelius was sincere and, perhaps inspired by his vision, said to Cornelius *“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.”* Acts 10:34-35 Peter was questioned, but through this the followers of Christ realized that God’s message was for everyone, not just the Jews.

Before Christ ascended into Heaven he told his followers. *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, .”* Matthew 28:19

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.”

Psalm 8:6-8

Prayer: Lord, You have made us in your image, but you have also made the animals to be our help mates in many ways. Help us to care for each other as you have commanded us and also help us to realize the value of everything you have created which includes the animals that can also be our friends. Thank you Lord for all your creation. Amen

1. Have you ever stopped to think how God saved all the animals, but only the one family of humans when he had Noah build the ark?
2. Have you ever witnessed a dog or any animal saving the life of a person?
3. Have you ever witnessed the calmness of a very ill individual who is comforted by his pet?
4. Have you ever noticed how a pet knows when someone is sick and often will lie by their side as they are healing?
5. Do you ever have trouble accepting things that seem to be too amazing?
6. Have you taken time to listen to the “voice” of a dog, a bird, regardless of whether it is a happy song, or a cry for attention?

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I want the world to know that the Sun, the Moon, the Stars, and all the animals are proof to me that God is alive and well on the planet earth, and that mankind has been given a wonderful gift that we can never imagine creating in our wildest dreams. We have been given the gift and the responsibility to care for the earth and everything God has created.